

3. (Amended) An expression plasmid comprising the DNA [according to claim] of Claim 2.

4. (Amended) A transformant [containing] comprising the expression plasmid [according to claim] of Claim 3.

5. (Amended) A process for the preparation of the protein [according to claim] of Claim 1, comprising the cultivation of the transformant [according to claim] of Claim 4 under suitable conditions.

6. (Amended) [Antibodies] An antibody directed against the protein [according to claim] of Claim 1.

7. (Amended) [Use of the protein according to claim 1 and the DNA according to claim 2 as well as the antibody according to claim 6] A method for detecting the keratinization of hair, comprising application the protein of Claim 1, the DNA of Claim 2, or the antibody of Claim 6.

Sub B9 8. (Amended) [Use of the protein according to claim 1] A method for the negative regulation of the keratinization of hair, comprising administering the protein of Claim 1 in a therapeutically effective amount.

Sub C2 9. (Amended) [Use according to claim] The method of Claim 8, wherein the protein is present as such or in the form of a nucleic acid expressing it.

10. (Amended) [Use according to claim] The method of Claim 8 or 9, wherein additionally substances are [also used] administered which inhibit the proteins Ha3 and/or CK15.

11. (Amended) [Use according to claim] The method of Claim 10, wherein the substances are antibodies directed against Ha3 and CK15, respectively, and/or anti-sense

oligonucleotides, all of which inhibit the expression of the nucleic acids encoding these proteins.

12. (Amended) [Use of the protein according to claim 1] A method for the positive regulation of the certification of hair, comprising administering the protein of Claim 1.

a' 13. (Amended) [Use according to claim] The method of Claim 12, wherein the protein is present in the form of a substance inhibiting it.

14. (Amended) [Use according to claim] The method of Claim 13, wherein the substance is an antibody [according to claim] of Claim 6 and/or an anti-sense oligonucleotide which inhibits the expression of the nucleic acid encoding the protein.

15. (Amended) [Use according to any one of claims] The method of Claim 12, 13 [to], or 14, wherein the proteins Ha3 and/or CK15 are also present as such or in the form of nucleic acids expressing them.